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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IM/IPS/CR/IR Date: 9/10/97

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E.O.12065:XDS-1 3/5/2011 (TODMAN, TERENCE A.) OR-M

TAGS:PEPR, PINT, SP

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S VIEWS ON THE ATTEMPTED COUP AND
THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

1. () - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH ME ON MARCH 5, PRIME MINISTER LEOPOLDO CALVO-SOTELO SAID THAT THE ATTEMPTED COUP WAS ORGANIZED AND CARRIED OUT BY A VERY SMALL GROUP WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES BASED ON A NUMBER OF FACTORS, DEPENDING ON THE PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING AMBITION, RESENTMENT, FRUSTRATION, AND IN SOME CASES DISSATISFACTION OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY OVER THE AUTONOMY ISSUE. THIS WAS SEEN AS HAVING THE POTENTIAL OF LEADING TO THE BREAK UP OF SPAIN. HE FELT THAT JUSTICE WOULD TAKE CARE OF THOSE WHO WERE DIRECTLY INVOLVED. NEVERTHELESS, HIS GOVERNMENT REALIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF MOVING PROMPTLY AND CAREFULLY TO DEAL WITH THE BASIC UNDERLYING CAUSES INCLUDING THE AUTONOMY ISSUE, THE ECONOMY AND THE GENERAL QUESTION OF CITIZEN SECURITY.

3. CALVO-SOTELO SAID THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO YIELD TO DEMANDS OR PRESSURES TO FORM A COALITION GOVERNMENT. HE HAD WON A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE ON THE BASIS OF HIS CLEAR

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STATEMENT OF INTENTION TO FORM A SINGLE-PARTY GOVERNMENT, AND HE INTENDED TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THAT COMMITMENT. FURTHERMORE, HE CONSIDERED HIMSELF TO HAVE A SOLID GOVERNMENT DESIGNED TO LAST FOR THE ENTIRE REMAINING ELECTORAL PERIOD ENDING IN 1983 AND NOT A TEMPORARY OR TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. HE HAD MADE THIS CLEAR TO SOCIALIST LEADER FELIPE GONZALEZ IN THEIR MARCH 4 MEETING, AND HE FELT THERE SHOULD NO LONGER BE ANY QUESTION CONCERNING THAT ISSUE.

4. CALVO-SOTELO DESCRIBED THE PRESENT SITUATION FOLLOWING THE ATTEMPTED COUP AS "DIFFICULT" AND "DELICATE" BUT AS ONE FROM WHICH HE FELT CERTAIN THAT THE COUNTRY WOULD EMERGE

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MUCH STRONGER ALONG DEMOCRATIC AND CONSTITUTIONAL LINES.
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